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Message Text

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55
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 IO-14 NIC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 EB-11 DODE-00 H-03

NSC-10 SS-20 DRC-01 /161 W
---------- 002121
P 151145Z NOV 73
FM USMISSION BERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2640
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1962

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, WB. GE, UR
SUBJECT: U.S. VIEWS ON QA: POSSIBLE PRESS STATEMENT

REF: STATE 221887

1. WE APPRECIATE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAVE LED DEPARTMENT TO STEER CLEAR OF APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON CURRENT CONTROVERSY OVER FOREIGN-EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITORS TO EAST BERLIN AND GDR, AND HAVE HAD NO FURTHER PRESSURE FROM SENAT TO INTERVENE. WE AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF ALLIED VIEWS IN REGARD TO SOME ASPECTS OF QA WOULD BE HELPFUL AT THIS JUNCTURE SO AS NOT TO LEAVE UNCHALLENGED COORDINATED SOVIET-GDR CAMPAIGN TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATIONS ON TIES, ETC. (TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IT HAS BEEN MANY MONTHS SINCE ALLIES HAVE COMMENTED PUBLICLY RE QA.) WHILE MISSION PRESS STATEMENT WOULD BE ONE POSSIBILITY, THIS HAS
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DISADVANTAGE OF SUGGESTING UNILATERAL VIEW NOT

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NECESSARILY SHARED BY ALLIES. ALTERNATIVE OF
PREPARED RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTION WOULD, HOWEVER,
SERVE ESSENTIALLY SAME PURPOSES AND COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED
IN CAPITALS, BONN, OR BERLIN. SUGGESTED Q&A
FOLLOWS FOR CONSIDERATION OF EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT. Q. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS
IN RECENT WEEKS THAT THE OTHER SIDE IS ENGAGING
IN SOMETHING OF A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE WEST GERMAN
PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN AND AGAINST THE WEST BERLIN
PRESENCE IN EAST BERLIN. I REFER TO THE SOVIET
AND GDR PROTESTS AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN, HONECKER'S
ATTACK AGAINST THE GOVERNING MAYOR IN HIS TOAST
NOVEMBER 6 AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY, THE RECENT INTERVIEW
WITH A SOVIET SPOKESMAN IN "DER SPIEGEL", AND
THE GDR DECISION TO DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF WEST MARKS
THAT WEST BERLINERS AND WEST GERMANS MUST EXCHANGE
WHEN VISITING EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR. WHAT SIGNIFI-
CANCE DO YOU ATTACH TO THESE ACTS?

A. WE VIEW THESE ACTS AS NIGHLY UNFORTUNATE.
THEY IN NO WAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE "ELIMINATION OF
TENSION AND THE PREVENTION OF COMPLICATIONS," FOR WHICH
THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WAS DESIGNED. WE HOPE
THEY PROVE TO BE ABERRATIONS RATHER THAN INDICATIONS
OF A CONSCIOUS CAMPAIGN. WE REALIZE NO AGREEMENT IS
PERFECT BUT THE BERLIN AGREEMENT CAREFULLY BALANCED
ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONCESSIONS OF THE TWO SIDES. WE
WOULD VIEW ANY EFFORT NOW TO OBTAIN THROUGH REIN-
TERPRETATION WHAT COULD NOT BE OBTAINED AT THE TIME
OF NEGOTIATIONS AS TOTALLY OUT OF ORDER.

THE ALLIES HAVE MADE THEIR VIEWS CLEAR
TO THE SOVIET UNION WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE FRG ENVIRONMENT OFFICE. THAT OFFICE HAS BEEN
AUTHORIZED BY THE ALLIES, AND IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH
THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS PROVISION FOR THE
MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF TIES BETWEEN THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC AND WEST BERLIN. THE DOUBLING OF THE
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MINIMUM CURRENCY-EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS, FALLING AS
IT DOES MOST HEAVILY UPON THE POOR AND UPON
ELDERLY PENSIONERS, IS SCARECELY CONSISTENT WITH THE
SPIRIT OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OR WITH THE
SPIRIT OF THE VISITS ARRANGEMENT WHICH IS AN INTEGRAL
PART OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. WE WOULD BE
QUITE CONCERNED IF IT RESULTED IN A REDUCTION OF
THE NUMBER OF VISITS THAT WEST BERLINERS CAN

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MAKE TO EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR INASMUCH AS THE
VISIT ARRANGEMENT CALLED FOR FACILITATING AND
IMPROVING VISIT OPPORTUNITIES.

AS FOR OTHER GDR AND SOVIET COMMENTS
AND GDR "PROTESTS" THAT VARIOUS ACTIONS OF THE
FRG OR THE SENAT ARE CONSIDERED TO BE IN VIOLATION
OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, THEY HAVE NOT, OF
COURSE, BEEN MADE DIRECTLY TO US. GOVERNING
MAYOR SCHUETZ HAS DEALT WITH THEM FORCEFULLY AND APPROPRIATELY.
I WOULD ADD, MOREOVER, THAT, AS FAR AS THE GDR IS
CONCERNED IT IS WHOLELY INAPPROPRIATE FOR IT TO
ATTEMPT TO MAKE DEFINITIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE
QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. THE GDR IS NOT A PARTY TO
THAT AGREEMENT, AND IT HAS NO COMPETENCE WHATSOEVER
TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN MATTERS RELATING TO WEST BERLIN
OR TO THE COMPETENCE OF THE FOUR POWERS. END TEXT.KLEIN

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